

Serial No. sn

Amended

the groups other than the un-muted group being at least partially muted; and

- a rendering subsystem, including audio output devices, arranged to generate an audio field in which said sound sources are synthesized at their associated rendering positions and with audibility as determined by said audibility-determining arrangement.

REMARKS

Claim 22 has been amended to remove the word "means" so there can be no doubt that the provisions of 35 USC 112, paragraph 6 are not applicable to the data store. Entry is in order.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 29, 2002

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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

22. (amended) Apparatus for providing an audio user interface in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the apparatus comprising:

- a data store [means] for storing data concerning the sound sources, this data including grouping data associating sound sources in groups of at least one sound source;
- a rendering-position determining arrangement operative to determine, for each said sound source, an associated rendering position at which the sound source is to be synthesized to sound in the audio field;
- an audibility-determining arrangement operative to determine the audibility of each sound source based on its group, the audibility-determining arrangement being further operative to automatically and cyclically change the audibility of the sound sources such as to un-mute the sound sources of each group in turn for a limited period with the sound sources of the groups other than the un-muted group being at least partially muted; and
- a rendering subsystem, including audio output devices, arranged to generate an audio field in which said sound sources are synthesized at their associated rendering positions and with audibility as determined by said audibility-determining arrangement.

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